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Message Text

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ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 INR-05 CIAE-00 USIA-01 TRSE-00
OMB-01 ARA-06 EA-06 NEA-07 AF-04 EUR-08 L-01 SS-14
NSC-05 NSCE-00 /067 W
----------141144Z 041069 /11
R 140949Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8727

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 01274

LIMDIS

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNESCO, OCON
SUBJECT: SUGGESTIONS REGARDING OBTAINING SUPPORT FOR UNESCO FUNDING

REF: (A) PARIS 37973 (1976), (B) PARIS 37613 (1976)

SUMMARY: IT WOULD BE INCONCEIVABLE THAT US NOT PLAY A FULL AND LEADING ROLE IN AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION COMPOSED OF 141 MEMBER STATES AND CHARGED WITH FORMULATING INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS AND POLICIES IN SCIENCE, EDUCATION, CULTURE AND COMMUNICATION. FULL AND PROMPT US SUPPORT FOR UNESCO PROGRAMS IS WAY IN ITSELF OF DIRECTING MINDS AND ENERGIES AWAY FROM CONTENTIOUS POLITICAL ISSUES. MOMENTUM STARTED BY USE OF DNG AT 19TH GEN CONF SHOULD BE MAINTAINED. UNESCO'S UPCOMING ACTIVITIES IN FORMATION OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS POLICIES PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR US INPUTS WHICH WE CANNOT AFFORD TO PASS BY. RESTORATION OF CONTRIBUTION IS ALSO NECESSARY TO SHOW CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR AMERICANS EMPLOYED BY UNESCO AND CREATE CONFIDENTIAL

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POSSIBILITY FOR MORE AMERICANS IN PROFESSIONAL POSTS. UNITED KINGDOM IS NEW CHAIRMAN OF UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR NEXT BIENNIUM. WESTERN ALLIES, ESPECIALLY EC NINE LOOK TO US TO SUPPORT ORGANIZATION AT TIME THEY ARE TAKING KEY LEADERSHIP ROLE. CHAIRMANSHIP EXBD WILL LIKELY ROTATE TO EASTERN EUROPE AFTER 1978, THEREFORE, TIME FOR US TO SHOW SUPPORT IS

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NOW. RESUMPTION US PAYMENT IS ONLY FEASIBLE WAY TO AVOID EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL CONFERENCE WHICH WOULD TURN SPOTLIGHT ON LACK OF US PAYMENT, AND FORCE ORGANIZATION TO EVEN GREATER FINANCIAL RELIANCE ON ARABS AND EASTERN BLOC.

1. FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS ARE OFFERED DEPARTMENT CONCERNING SUPPORT FOR RESTORATION OF US FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNESCO.

2. FACT UNESCO HAS EVOLVED INTO A TRULY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF 141 SOVEREIGN MEMBER STATES, THE LARGE MAJORITY OF WHICH ESTEEM IT HIGHLY AND LOOK TO ITS SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE ON MATTERS INCLUDED IN ITS COMPETENCE, IT WOULD SEEM INCONCEIVABLE THAT THE US WOULD NOT PLAY A FULL AND LEADING ROLE. NOT TO DO SO WOULD BE TO ABANDON FORMATION OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL, CULTURAL, AND COMMUNICATIONS POLICIES, AND SCIENTIFIC MATTERS TO COMPETING POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES AND SYSTEMS WHICH WOULD CERTAINLY FILL GAP OR VACUUM CREATED BY NON OR EVEN PARTIAL US PARTICIPATION. 19TH GEN CONF HAS SHOWN THAT US AND WEST CAN HOLD ITS OWN AND COME OUT AHEAD ON EVEN THE MOST DIFFICULT ISSUES, OFTEN WITH UNSPOKEN SUPPORT OF MANY DELEGATIONS WHICH CANNOT OWN TO PUBLICLY. WE HAVE ALSO SHOWN THAT BY HOLDING OUR GROUND THE SOVIETS ARE MORE INCLINED TO BLUSTER ABOUT WITH HEAVY HANDED TACTICS WHICH ARE MOST UNSUITED TO SENSITIVITIES OF MOST LDCS.

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3. AT SAME TIME, BY EMPHASIZING AND FULLY SUPPORTING THE PROGRAM SIDE OF UNESCO WHICH MEETS REAL NEEDS AND DEMANDS OF ITS CONSTITUENCY, THERE WOULD BE LESS ENERGY AND INCLINATION TO DISRUPT THESE BENEFICIAL PROGRAMS BY ENGAGING IN CONTENTIOUS POLITICAL ISSUES.

4. UNESCO'S UPCOMING ACTIVITIES PROVIDE CHALLENGING AND CRUCIAL OPPORTUNITIES PARTICULARLY IN THE FORMATION OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS POLICIES, WHICH THE US CANNOT AFFORD TO LET PASS BY. IN ADDITION TO DEVELOPING A "CONSENSUS" DRAFT DECLARATION ON THE MASS MEDIA, UNESCO ALSO PLANS TO PLAY A LEADING ROLE IN QUESTION CONCERNING WORLD COMMUNICATIONS POLICIES FOR AT LEAST SEVERAL DECADES TO COME (REFTEL A). AN AMERICAN WILL BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE ON A COMMISSION OF "WISE MEN" WHICH WILL HELP TO INITIATE, PLAN

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ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 CU-02 INR-05 CIAE-00 USIA-01
TRSE-00 OMB-01 L-01 ARA-06 NEA-07 NSC-05 NSCE-00 EA-06
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 01274

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AND MONITOR THIS MAJOR UNESCO INITIATIVE.

5. MANY OTHER UNESCO ACTIVITIES IN FACT RETURN TO US A PORTION OF US CONTRIBUTIONS IN FORM OF SALARIES TO AMERICAN PERSONNEL ON SECRETARIAT STAFF AND CONSULTANTS, IN CONTRACTS WITH AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS, AND IN GOODS (COMPUTERS, FOR EXAMPLE). MORE IMPORTANT ARE THOSE SOLID AND PROVEN PROGRAMS SUCH AS MAB, UNISIST, IOC, AND IHP WHICH ARE INVALUABLE FORA AND WORKING PLATFORMS WHICH CONFORM EXTREMELY WELL TO MANY OF OUR SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY'S INTERESTS AND NEEDS.

6. WE FEEL STRONGLY THAT FOCUS SHOULD BE ON THE POSITIVE AND LOOK TO THE FUTURE RATHER THAN TO OVERLY DWELL ON POLITICAL ISSUES. ACTIONS OF THE SECRETARIAT AND MANY MEMBER STATES AT THE PAST 19TH GEN CONF ARE REASON FOR OPTIMISM THAT EFFORTS FOR IMMUNIZATION OF UNESCO FROM DESTRUCTIVE POLITICS WILL CONTINUE, PRIMARILY THROUGH INSTITUTIONALIZATION AND STRENGTHENING OF INSTRUMENTS SUCH AS THE DRAFTING AND
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NEGOTIATING GROUP, AND THROUGH SUPPORT FOR SECRETARIAT STRATEGIES TO HEAD OFF POLITICAL COLLISIONS BY SENSIBLE LOW KEY APPROACHES TO KEY ISSUES SUCH AS THE MASS MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS AS OUTLINED IN REFTELS.

7. THE RESTORATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS WOULD ALSO BE A NECESSARY SIGN OF SUPPORT FOR THE 90 ODD AMERICAN EMPLOYEES OF UNESCO WHO ARE FINDING IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO WORK EFFECTIVELY WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION OWING TO THE UNCERTAINTY OF THE US POSITION, AND AS WELL TO ASSURE THAT A PROPORTIONATE NUMBER OF NEW SECRETARIAT POSITIONS GO TO QUALIFIED AMERICANS WHEN FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE FOR FILLING THESE SLOTS.

8. PROMPT RESUMPTION OF FULL US CONTRIBUTION IS ALSO IMPORTANT AS SHOW OF SUPPORT AND STRENGTHENED TIES WITH US ALLIES, ESPECIALLY THE EC-9 AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES. THIS FULL SUPPORT WILL BE PARTICU-LARLY ESSENTIAL IN CURRENT UNESCO BIENNIUM SINCE UK HAS BEEN ELECTED EXBD CHAIRMANSHIP FOR NEXT TWO YEARS. THUS, THE NEXT TWO YEARS WILL BE THE "WESTERN" BIENNIUM AND IS THE TIME FOR STRONG WESTERN INPUTS EXPECIALLY IN THE FORM OF SOLID US PROGRAM AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT. BEGINNING WITH THE NEXT BIENNIUM (1979/80) THE EXBD CHAIRMANSHIP WILL LIKELY ROTATE TO EASTERN EUROPE, SO IT IS DOUBLY IMPORTANT THAT WESTERN INPUTS BE FIRMLY ENTRENCHED DURING THIS CURRENT BIENNIUM. RESUMPTION OF OUR CONTRIBUTION WILL ALSO STRENGTHEN THE HAND OF THOSE MODERATE LDC'S WHOSE SUPPORT AND FRIENDSHIP WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO CULTIVATE IN ORDER TO BROADEN THE NEW CONSENSUS. IT WOULD INDEED LOOK ODD FOR THE US TO WITHHOLD ITS FUNDING AT A TIME WHEN A WESTERN EUROPEAN ALLY IS CHAIRING THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND RESUME IT LATER WHEN A SOVIET BLOC COUNTRY IS IN THE CHAIR.

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9. FINALLY, A SPECIAL GENERAL CONFERENCE TO WORK OUT UNESCO'S FINANCIAL PROBLEMS SHOULD BE AVOIDED. ONCE AGAIN, THE SECRETARIAT WOULD HAVE TO GO HAT IN HAND TO THE ARABS, AND EVEN MORE EMBARRASSIRG AND DAMAGING, COUNTRY ASSESSMENTS WOULD PROBABLY BE ALTERED WITH ATTENDANT DEBATE ACCUSING THE US OF VIOLATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL TREATY OBLIGATION. IF THE US DOES SIGNAL ITS INTENTION TO PAY IN FULL, HOWEVER, UNESCO'S TRADITIONAL SOURCES OF BORROWING IN THE US, WHICH HAD DRIED UP OWING TO CONGRESSIONAL DECISION TO WITHHOLD CONTRIBUTIONS WOULD OPEN UP AGAIN. THE SECRETARIAT WOULD HAVE RECOURSE AND

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OPPORTUNITYFOR WESTERN SOURCE FINANCING AND SO
RELIEVE DEPENDANCY ON ARAB SOURCES.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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